

REMARKS

Claims 15 to 21, and 28, are now pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

Claims 15 to 21 and 28, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,534,913 to Majeti et al. (“Majeti reference”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,029,207 to Gammie (“Gammie reference”).

The Majeti reference purportedly concerns an apparatus and method for integrating downstream data transfers over a cable television channel with upstream data carrier by other media. The Majeti reference is discussed in detail in Applicants’ earlier submissions, which are incorporated herein by reference.

The Gammie reference purportedly concerns an external security module for a television signal decoder. The Gammie reference refers to a decoder for descrambling encoded satellite transmissions having an internal security element and a replaceable security module, where the program signal is scrambled with a key and then the key itself is twice-encrypted and multiplexed with the scrambled program signals. The Gammie reference further refers to the key being first encrypted with a first secret serial number which is assigned to a given replaceable security module; the key is then encrypted with a second secret serial which is assigned to a decoder. The partially decrypted key is then further decrypted by the replaceable security module using the first secret serial number stored within the replaceable security module. The Gammie reference further states that the decoder then descrambles the program using the twice-decrypted key.

In contrast, claim 15 is directed to a decoder device for decrypting encrypted television programs, including, among other things, a first interface for interfacing to at least one of a first identification and a first key carrier component for enabling the decryption device, the first interface being disposed in the control unit; a second interface for interfacing to the control unit; a third interface for interfacing to a telecommunications network; *and a fourth interface for interfacing to at least one of a second identification and a second key carrier component, an authorization by at least one of the second identification and the second key carrier component being useable for establishing a connection to a subscriber via the telecommunications network.* Both the Majeti and Gammie references – alone or in combination – do not describe or suggest all of the features of claim 15 such as fourth interface for interfacing to at least one of a second

identification and a second key carrier component, an authorization by at least one of the second identification and the second key carrier component being useable for establishing a connection to a subscriber via the telecommunications network. The Office Action admits that the Majeti reference does not teach or suggest this feature. Applicants respectfully submit that the Gammie reference also does not teach or suggest this feature. According to the Office Action, the Gammie reference at page 5 refers to a replaceable security module 514 in which there is a secret serial number memory 512. The replaceable security module 514 is recited to contain ALL of the security, and includes a secret serial number memory 512 and a key memory 507 to stored the secret serial number memory and a decrypted key. The replaceable security module 514 is not believed to be the same as the present invention's fourth interface for interfacing to a second identification and/or a second key carrier component, an authorization by the second identification and/or the second key component being usable for establishing a connection to a subscriber via a telecommunications network. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 and its dependent claims 16 to 21 and 28, are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Majeti and Gammie references.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 15 to 21 and 28, of the present application are allowable for the foregoing reasons and for the reasons stated in Applicants' earlier responses.

CONCLUSION

In view of all of the above and Applicants' earlier responses, it is believed that the previous rejections of the claims have been overcome, and that all pending claims 15 to 21 and 28, are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
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